

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 DODE-00 CIAE-00 INRE-00

ACDE-00 /026 W

----- 120841

P 051255Z NOV 74

FM USDEL SALT TWO GENEVA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2381

INFO AMEMBASSY MOSCOW PRIORITY

USMISSION NATO PRIORITY

S E C R E T SALT TWO GENEVA 0153

EXDIS/SALT

DPET ALSO PASS DOD

SPECAT EXCLUSIVE FOR SECDEF

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1

TAGS: PARM

SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR JOHNSON'S STATEMENT OF NOVEMBER 5, 1974

(SALT TWO - 493)

THE FOLLOWING IS STATEMENT DELIVERED BY AMBASSADOR
JOHNSON AT THE SALT TWO MEETING OF NOVEMBER 5, 1974

STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR JOHNSON
NOVEMBER 5, 1974

MR. MINISTER

I

SINCE WE ARE ABOUT TO BEGIN A RECESS IN OUR CURRENT SERIES
OF MEETINGS, IT SEEMS TO ME APPROPRIATE TODAY TO TAKE A BROAD
LOOK AT WHERE WE STAND. THEREFORE, BEFORE WE LEAVE I WANT TO SHARE
WITH YOU SOME OF OUR THOUGHTS AND SOME OF OUR HOPES ABOUT THESE
NEGOTIATIONS.

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II

MY GOVERNMENT HAS MADE CLEAR WHAT IT WANTS TO ACCOMPLISH IN THESE NEGOTIATIONS.

WE WANT TO REDUCE THE RISK OF NUCLEAR WAR, NOT SIMPLY FOR THE IMMEDIATE FUTURE, BUT FOR GENERATIONS YET UNBORN. WE WANT MANKIND NEVER TO KNOW THE HOLOCAUST OF NUCLEAR WARFARE.

WE WANT TO PREVENT AN UNCONSTRAINED ARMS COMPETITION. SUCH A COMPETITION WOULD NOT STRENGTHEN THE NATIONAL SECURITY OF EITHER OF OUR COUNTRIES. IT WOULD STRENGTHEN ONLY THE CORROSIVE ATTITUDES OF HOSTILITY AND SUSPICION.

WE WANT TO ACHIEVE AN EQUITABLE AGREEMENT ON THE FURTHER LIMITATION OF STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE ARMS UNTIL 1985. SUCH AN AGREEMENT WOULD SERVE TO REDUCE UNCERTAINTIES AND TO BUILD CONFIDENCE ON BOTH SIDES. IT WOULD MOVE US FURTHER TOWARD THE CONSTRUCTIVE RELATIONSHIP THAT BOTH OF OUR GOVERNMENTS HAVE PLEDGED THEMSELVES TO SEEK WITH EACH OTHER.

IN OUR PURSUIT OF THESE NEGOTIATIONS, WE ARE PROCEEDING ON THE BASIS THAT THE SOVIET GOVERNMENT SHARES THESE GOALS.

III

I SEE OUR TASK IN THESE NEGOTIATIONS AS DETERMINING HOW WE CAN BEST MOVE TOGETHER TOWARD THESE GOALS.

THE ROOTS OF OUR NEGOTIATIONS -- AS YOU, MR. MINISTER, PERSONALLY KNOW SO WELL - REACH BACK FIVE YEARS WHEN OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS VOLUNTARILY DECIDED TO BEGIN EFFORTS TO LIMIT THE STRATEGIC ARMS THAT GUARD THE NATIONAL EXISTENCE OF OUR RESPECTIVE COUNTRIES. THIS JOINT UNDERTAKING REFLECTED OUR MUTUAL RECOGNITION OF THE TERRIBLE POWER OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS THAT COULD DESTROY VIRTUALLY EVERYTHING WHICH MANKIND OVER THE CENTURIES HAS SUFFERED AND SACRIFICED TO ACHIEVE. IT ALSO REFLECTED RECOGNITION THAT MUTUAL RESTRAINT WOULD BENEFIT NOT ONLY OUR TWO COUNTRIES, BUT INDEED THE ENTIRE WORLD.

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IN THE BEGINNING THESE NEGOTIATIONS FACED UNMAPPED TERRITORY. YET BY 1972, OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS SUCCEEDED IN FINDING A MUTUALLY ACCEPTABLE WAY TO LIMIT ABM DEFENSES AND TO LIMIT, FOR AN INTERIM PERIOD, SOME STRATEGIC OFFENSIVE ARMS. THEN IN 1974 THE LIMITATIONS ON ABM DEFENSES WERE FURTHER EXTENDED. MEANWHILE, OUR TWO GOVERNMENTS HAVE CONDUCTED FREQUENT CONSULTATIONS AT THE HIGHEST LEVEL WITH THE AIM OF ACHIEVING FURTHER LIMITATIONS ON STRATEGIC

OFFENSIVE ARMS.

AS PART OF THIS OVERALL PROCESS, OUR TWO DELEGATIONS FOR THE PAST 24 MONTHS HAVE BEEN ENGAGED IN EXPLORING HOW WE MIGHT FURTHER CONSTRAIN THESE ARMS. INDEED, THIS MEETING TODAY IS OUR 74TH SESSION IN GENEVA.

MR. MINISTER, I SHARE YOUR VIEW THAT WE HAVE ACCOMPLISHED USEFUL WORK DURING THIS PERIOD. EACH DELEGATION HAS ADVANCED VIEWS ON WHAT IT CONSIDERS WOULD BE AN EFFECTIVE WAY TO PROCEED TOWARD A NEW AGREEMENT. EACH DELEGATION HAS HAD THE OPPORTUNITY TO HEAR AND TO QUESTION THE VIEWS PRESENTED BY THE OTHER SIDE. THIS PROCESS OF MUTUAL EXCHANGE, I BELIEVE, HAS HELPED EACH DELEGATION TO DEVELOP A BETTER UNDERSTANDING OF HOW THE OTHER SIDE VIEWS THE STRATEGIC RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES.

DURING OUR CURRENT SERIES OF MEETINGS, BOTH DELEGATIONS HAVE ACKNOWLEDGED THAT OUR NEW ASSIGNMENT OF WORKING OUT AN AGREEMENT FOR A DEFINITE TIME PERIOD PROVIDES FRESH OPPORTUNITIES. BOTH DELEGATIONS HAVE SET FORTH THEIR VIEWS ON THE BASIC CONCEPTS THAT THEY BELIEVE SHOULD GUIDE US TOWARD AN AGREEMENT. YOU, MR. MINISTER, AND I HAVE AGREED THAT EACH OF US HAS ACCOMPLISHED THE MISSION WITH WHICH WE WERE CHARGED AND THAT A RECESS IS NOW PROPERLY IN ORDER.

MR. MINISTER, IF YOU WILL PERMIT ME A PERSONAL REMARK, WHEN I REFLECT ON MY YEARS OF DIPLOMATIC SERVICE, I AM IMPRESSED BY THE SUCCESSES THAT WERE ACHIEVED BECAUSE GOVERNMENTS WERE ALERT TO NEW OPPORTUNITIES AND BY THE FAILURES THAT WERE SUFFERED BECAUSE OPPORTUNITIES WENT UNRECOGNIZED OR WERE IGNORED. AS WE BOTH KNOW, OPPORTUNITIES CAN BE LOST. ONCE LOST, THEY DO NOT NECESSARILY COME AGAIN.

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LOOKING BACK OVER FIVE YEARS OF SALT NEGOTIATIONS, LOOKING AT WHERE WE STAND AT PRESENT IN OUR NEGOTIATIONS HERE, LOOKING FORWARD TO POSSIBLE DEVELOPMENTS IN THE FUTURE, I BELIEVE IT IS FAIR TO ASK: ARE WE NEARING A TURNING POINT IN OUR EFFORTS TO WORK OUT A NEW AGREEMENT? ARE WE MOVING TOWARD THAT MOMENT WHEN, AFTER LONG PREPARATIONS, WE CAN BEGIN THE CONSTRUCTION OF AN AGREEMENT? DOES THERE NOW EXIST AN OPPORTUNITY THAT SHOULD BE SEIZED BEFORE IT SLIPS AWAY?

THE UNITED STATES DELEGATION WILL DEVOTE THE TIME OF THE RECESS TO AN INTENSIVE AND THOROUGH STUDY, TOGETHER WITH OUR COLLEAGUES IN WASHINGTON, OF ALL THE FACETS OF THE TASK THAT CONFRONTS US. WE ARE DETERMINED TO OVERLOOK NO OPPORTUNITY THAT COULD LEAD US TOWARD AN EQUITABLE AGREEMENT. I LOOK FORWARD TO THE RESUMPTION OF OUR NEGOTIATIONS AT AS EARLY A DATE AS POSSIBLE

AND TO THE CONTINUATION OF OUR EFFORTS TO MOVE FORWARD TOGETHER
TOWARD THE GOALS THAT WE SHARE.

FOR MY PART, MR. MINISTER, I CONTINUE TO BE OPTIMISTIC
THAT THESE EFFORTS WILL BE SUCCESSFUL.
JOHNSON

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SALT (ARMS CONTROL), AMBASSADORS, SPEECHES, SALT TWO 493
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 05 NOV 1974
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: MorefiRH
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1974SALTT00153
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: X1
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D740317-0338
From: SALT TALKS
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1974/newtext/t19741170/aaaachfj.tel
Line Count: 175
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 4
Previous Channel Indicators:
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: MorefiRH
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 07 MAY 2002
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: RELEASED <07 MAY 2002 by garlanwa>; APPROVED <10 DEC 2002 by MorefiRH>
Review Markings:

Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
30 JUN 2005

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: AMBASSADOR JOHNSON'S STATEMENT OF NOVEMBER 5, 1974 (SALT TWO - 493)
TAGS: PARM
To: STATE
Type: TE
Markings: Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 30 JUN 2005